Customs, CBI and I£ boarded the vessel and carried out the investigation onboard ship. The Commander, Coast Guard Region(West) provided assistance to the immigration authorities to carryout independent interrogation. Representative from P&I Club, Bremen, Germany who arrived at Mumbai alongwith an interpreter, also negotiated with the stowaways from 14—20 June, 2000. Consequently, the 10 Iranian stowaways were issued with travel documents by Iranian Embassy to travel by air and they left on 23rd June, 2000. The vessel sailed from Mumbai on 24th June with 04 Iraqi stowaways under escort of private security agencies hired by the owners of the vessel for Bandar Abbas via Kandls.

Financial performance of ports

1049. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite eight per cent average rise in traffic volume, profits in all major ports, barring one has declined sharply over the past years; if so, the details in this regard, port-wise;

(b) what corrective measures Government have taken in the matter; and

(c) whether Government propose to convert these ports into public undertakings; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. As may be seen from the statement annexed, *(See* below) all major ports, except Calcutta Port Trust had operating surpluses during the years from 1996-97 to 1998-99.

(b) On the advice of the Government constant efforts are being made by the management of Calcutta Port Trust to attract more cargo to the Port and to reduce expenditure, wherever necessary.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Statement

Operating Surplus of Major Port Trusts

(Rs. in crores)

Name *of* the Port	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Kandla	80.77	100.95	146.02
Mumbai	218.15	211.15	172.91
Jawaliarlal Nehru	106.25	150.33	i 96.22
Mormugao	21.83	27.16	20.47
New Mangalore	60.40	83.02	72.41
Cochin	43.17	44.19	33.41
Tuticorin	27.60	38.08	40.79
Chennai	109.15	101.87	94.78
Visakhapatnam	104.55	95.81	92.50
Paradip	63.60	73.41	59.36

Rubberisation of National Highways

1050. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed all the states to use rubber-modified bitumen for constructing busy stretches of National Highways;

(b) if so, how many States have responded to this request; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to use synthetic rubber which have to be imported instead of natural rubber which is abundantly available indigenously for the rubberisation of the roads; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to provide more durable and better performing roads, thp Government has decided to introduce the use of Rubber/Polymer-Modified Bitumen in minimum 10% of periodical renewal works of National Highways and also in bituminous wearing